

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of remnants of war;²⁷

2. *Regrets* that no concrete measures have been taken to solve the problem of remnants of war despite the various resolutions and decisions adopted thereon by the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Reiterates its support* of the just demands of the developing countries affected by the implantation of mines and the presence of other remnants of war in their territories for compensation and for complete removal of those obstacles by the States that implanted them;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to collect all information on expertise and available equipment, so as to evaluate, on request, the actual needs of the developing countries affected and to assist those countries in their efforts to detect and clear material remnants of war;

5. *Calls upon* all States to co-operate with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system in carrying out the task assigned to them in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Also calls upon* those developed countries directly responsible for the presence of remnants of war to intensify bilateral consultations with the aim of concluding, without undue delay, agreements for the solution of those problems;

7. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a detailed and comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

39/168. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

A

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, by which it approved the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,²⁸

Recalling also paragraph 8 of its resolution 38/165 of 19 December 1983, by which it welcomed section VIII of decision 11/1 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,²⁹ in which the Council decided to devote two days, during its twelfth session, to a detailed assessment of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

Having considered the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification during the period 1978-1984,³⁰

Having also considered Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on environment and development in Africa,

Bearing in mind the current serious problem of prolonged drought and desertification that has contributed to the widespread economic catastrophe in a large number of African countries south of the Sahara,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the views of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the general assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification during the period 1978-1984;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Governing Council on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;³¹

3. *Takes note with interest* of Governing Council decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 on desertification;³²

4. *Notes with great concern* that, during the seven years since the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, desertification has continued to spread and intensify in developing countries, particularly in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* the reconfirmation by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme of the validity of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the reaffirmation of the central role of the Programme in catalysing, co-ordinating and assessing the implementation of the Plan of Action at the international level, and the approval by the Governing Council of concrete, time-bound activities to combat desertification over the next fifteen years;

6. *Decides* to expand the role of the Consultative Group for Desertification Control, which is financed from voluntary contributions, to include explicitly responsibility for advising the Executive Director on:

(a) The progress and effectiveness of activities implemented under the Plan of Action, identifying constraints and possible solutions to problems, taking account of relevant evaluations and case studies;

(b) Programme priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme related to problems of desertification;

(c) Measures required to improve implementation of the Plan of Action on a regional and world-wide basis;

7. *Calls upon* the Consultative Group for Desertification Control to intensify further its efforts to assist the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

8. *Urges* Governments of countries prone to or suffering from desertification to give priority to the establishment of national programmes to combat desertification and to consider setting up appropriate national machinery or assigning responsibility to existing national machinery, where appropriate, to that end;

9. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to examine, at its thirteenth session, the possibility of:

²⁷ A/39/580.

²⁸ Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August-9 September 1977 (A/CONF.74/36), chap. I.

²⁹ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/38/25), annex.

³⁰ UNEP/GC.12/9 and Corr.1

³¹ A.39.433, annex I.

³² See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/39/25), annex.

(a) The inclusion of reference to the United Republic of Tanzania in the terms of reference of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable that country to receive assistance in the implementation of programmes for combating desertification;

(b) The expansion of the scope of the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office so as to enable it to assist the States members of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme on combating desertification and drought, in the same way as the Office is currently assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

10. *Urges* all Governments to increase their assistance, *inter alia*, by financing regional and subregional programmes, through appropriate channels, including the Special Account created under General Assembly resolution 32/172 of 19 December 1977, to countries suffering from desertification;

11. *Endorses* the decision of the Governing Council in paragraph 28 of its decision 12/10³² that a further overall assessment of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification should be carried out in 1992.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

B

IMPLEMENTATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolutions 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982 and 38/164 of 19 December 1983,

Taking note of decision 12/10 of 28 May 1984 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme³² on desertification,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/65 of 26 July 1984 on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and 1984/72 of 27 July 1984 on the environment and development in Africa,

Taking note also of the inclusion of Ghana and Togo in the list of countries to be covered by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office under the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,²⁸

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,³³

Bearing in mind the special review undertaken by the Governing Council of the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, based, *inter alia*, on the general assessment by the Executive Director of progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action during the period 1978-1984,³⁰ and on the document on the assessment of desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region,³⁴

Aware that the prime responsibility in the struggle against desertification and the effects of drought rests upon

the countries concerned, and noting the efforts of those countries to combat desertification and drought,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

2. *Notes with concern:*

(a) That the persistent drought in the Sahel has intensified and spread into other parts of Africa, assuming the catastrophic proportions of a generalized drought;

(b) That the inadequacy of financial resources continues to place a serious constraint on the fight against desertification;

(c) That struggle against desertification requires financial and human resources beyond the means of the affected countries;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* of the progress made towards overcoming these obstacles by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of a joint action by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to assist the Governments of the region in combating desertification;

4. *Expresses its appreciation also* for the efficient and co-ordinated manner in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme have continued to develop this joint action through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office;

5. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to provide and increase their support to the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order to enable it to respond fully to the urgent needs of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations and other organizations which have contributed to the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to redouble the efforts in order to implement in the Sudano-Sahelian region the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and urges all Governments to respond favourably to the requests submitted by the Governments of the countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region for assistance in combating desertification;

8. *Requests* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to make the necessary arrangements at each session for submitting a report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

*103rd plenary meeting
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39/169. Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories

The General Assembly.

Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976,³⁵ and the relevant recommendations for

³³ A/39/433, annex II.

³⁴ UNEP/GC.12/INF.3 and Corr.1

³⁵ *Report of Habitat, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. 1